GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1204
ANSWERED ON:10.03.2005
NEW INTER-CONNECT REGULATION FOR BROADCAST AND CABLE SERVICES
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Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has introduced new inter-connect regulation for broadcast and cable services as reported in the Times of India dated January 1, 2005;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the manner in which the new Regulation is different from the earlier one?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING AND CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY)

(a) & (b): The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has issued Register of Interconnect Agreements Regulations, which are given as under:

(i) The Register of Interconnect Agreements (Broadcasting & Cable Services) Regulations 2004.

(ii) The Register of Interconnect Agreements (Second Amendment) Regulations 2004.

(c): The TRAI has informed that the New Register of Interconnect Agreements Regulations has been issued to meet the specific requirements of the Broadcasting and cable services whereas the earlier regulations were common for telecom and broadcasting sector. The new Regulations require all broadcasters to register with the Authority all interconnect agreements entered into by them as against the provisions of earlier regulations which required the filing of interconnect agreements to which not only the broadcasters but also the multi service operator were party. It also stipulates that the amendments / modifications to the agreements as well as new agreements pertaining to a particular quarter need to be filed within one month of the end of respective quarter. The earlier regulations provided for filing of agreements within 30 days of date of agreements or modifications thereof. The provisions for providing non-confidential summary of confidential information as provided in the earlier regulation has been dispensed with in the new regulation keeping in view the experience on the nature of requests for keeping information confidential.